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# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

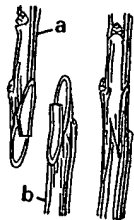
ELEVENTH  
EDITION



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

**graffiti** *n* [It. pl. of *graffito*] (1945): usu. unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface  
**usage** *Graffiti*, which also serves as the plural of *graffito*, is commonly used as a singular mass noun (*Graffiti*... was depressing people who rode the subways — *New Yorker*) *graffiti* comes in various styles — S. tabished as the mass-noun use of *data*. Use of *graffiti* as a singular count noun is still quite rare and is not standard.  
**graffiti** *n* [grā-fē-(j)ō, grā-, grā- *n*, pl -ti] [It. incised inscription, fr. *graffiare* to scratch, prob. fr. *graffio* stylus, fr. L *graphium*] (1851): an inscription or drawing made on some public surface (as a rock or wall); also: a message or slogan written as or as if as a graffito — *graffi-tist* *n*

**graft** *n* [ME *graffe*, *grafe*, fr. AF *greffe*, *grafe* stylus, graph, fr. ML *graphium*, fr. L stylus, fr. Gk *graphein*, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (14c) 1 a: a grafted plant b: SCION 1 c: the point of insertion of a scion upon a stock 2 a: the act of grafting b: something grafted; *specif*: living tissue used in grafting



graft 1c: a scion, b stock

**graft** *v* (14c) 1 a: to cause (a scion) to unite with a stock; also: to unite (plants or scion and stock) to form a graft b: to propagate (a plant) by grafting 2 a: to join or unite as if by grafting b: to attach (a chemical unit) to a main molecular chain 3: to implant (living tissue) surgically ~ *vi* 1: to become grafted 2: to perform grafting — *graft-er* *n*  
**graft** *n* [E dial. *graft*, vb., to work] (1853) chiefly Brit: WORK, LABOR

**graft** [origin unknown] *vt* (1859): to get (illicit gain) by graft ~ *vi*: to practice graft  
**graft** *n* (1865): the acquisition of gain (as money) in dishonest or questionable ways; also: illegal or unfair gain  
**graft-age** *n* [grāf-tij] (ca. 1895): the principles and practice of grafting  
**graft-versus-host disease** *n* (1965): a potentially fatal bodily condition that results when T cells from a tissue or organ transplant and host's antigens attacking cells and tissues

**graham** *n* [grā-m] *n* [graham flour] (1882): a slightly sweet cracker made of whole wheat flour  
**graham flour** *n* [Sylvester Graham 18151 Am. dietary reformer] (1834) whole wheat flour  
**grail** *n* [ME *greal*, *grail*, fr. MF, bowl, grail, fr. ML *gradalis*] 1 cap: the cup or platter used according to medieval legend by Christ at the Last Supper and thereafter the object of knightly quests 2: the object of an extended or difficult quest

**grain** *n* [ME, partly fr. AF *grain* cereal grain, fr. L *granum*; partly fr. AF *graine* seed, kermes, fr. L *grana*, pl. of *granum*; part. of a cereal grass] CARYOPHYTES b: the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grains and in commercial and statutory use; a small hard particle or crystal 2 a: (1) a photographic material by its development; also: the size of such minute portion or particle c: the least amount possible (a ~ of brilliant scarlet dye made from it c: a fast dye d: cochineal or a dye 4 a: a granulated surface or appearance b: d: archaic: COLOR, side of a skin or hide 5: a unit of weight based on the weight of a grain of wheat taken as an average of the weight of grains from the middle of the ear — see WEIGHT table 6 a: the stratification of the wood fibers in a piece of wood b: a texture due to constituent particles or fibers (the ~ of a rock) c: the direction of threads in cloth against my ~ b: a basic or characteristic quality c: a prevalent theology or convention (teaching against the ~) — *grained* *v* (grānd) *n* (1530) 1: INGRAIN 2: to form into grains: GRANULATE 3 grain ~ *vi*: to become granular: GRANULATE — *grain-er* *n*  
**grain alcohol** *n* (1883): ETHANOL  
**grain elevator** *n* (1852): a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain  
**grain of salt (1647): a skeptical attitude  
**grains of paradise (15c): the pungent seeds of a West African plant (*Piptadenia* *melagueta*) of the ginger family that are used as a spice  
**grain sorghum** *n* (1920): any of several sorghums cultivated primarily for grain — compare SORGO  
**grainy** *adj* [grā-nē] *adj* grain-like; -est (15c) 1: resembling or having some characteristic of grain: not smooth or fine 2 of a photograph appearing to be composed of grain-like particles — *graini-ness* *n*  
**grain** *n* [obs. fr. (now spelled *grāo*), grain, fr. L *granum*] (1702) any of several leguminous plants (as a chickpea) grown esp. for their seeds; also: their seeds****

**gram** *n* [F *gramme*, fr. LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. Gk *graphein* to write] (1810) 1: a metric unit of mass equal to 1/1000 kilogram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at 4°C under the acceleration of gravity 2: the weight of a gram [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1934): GRANDMOTHER  
**gram** *n* [comb form] [L *gramma*, fr. Gk, fr. *gramma*]: drawing: writing  
**gram** (chronogram) *n* [L *gramma*, fr. Gk, fr. *gramma*]: drawing: writing  
**gram** *n* [Sp, fr. L *gramina*, pl. of *gramen* grass] (1828): any general pasture grasses (genus *Bouteloua*) of the western U.S.  
**atomic weight** *n* (1927): the mass of one mole of an element  
**calorie** *n* (1902): CALORIE 1a  
**equivalent** *n* (ca. 1897): the quantity of an element, group, or compound that has a mass in grams equal to the equivalent weight  
**grace** *n* [grā-mor-sē] *interj* [ME *grand mercy*, fr. AF *grand merci* thanks] (14c) archaic — used to express gratitude or surprise

**gram-i-ci-din** *n* [grā-mō-sī-dīn] *n* [gram-positive + -i- + -cide + -in] (1940): any of several toxic crystalline polypeptide antibiotics produced by a soil bacterium (*Bacillus brevis*) and used against gram-positive bacteria in local infections

**gram-mi-n-o-ous** *adj* [grā-mī-nē-əs] *adj* [L *gramineus*, fr. *gramin-*, *gramen* grass] (ca. 1658): of or relating to a grass

**gram-i-niv-o-ous** *adj* [grā-mī-nī-v(ə)-rəs] *adj* [L *gramin-*, *gramen*] (1739): feeding on grass or the seeds of grass (~ locusts) (~ birds)

**gram-mar** *n* [grā-mər] *n* [ME *gramere*, fr. AF *gramaire*, modif. of L *grammatica*, fr. Gk *grammatikē*, fr. fem. of *grammatikos* of letters, fr. *gramma-*, *gramma* — more at *GRAM*] (14c) 1 a: the study of the classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence b: a study of what is to be preferred and what avoided and syntax of a language c: a system of rules that defines the grammatical structure of a language 3 a: a grammar textbook b: speech 4: the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique (a ~ of the theater); also: a set of such principles or rules — *gram-mar-i-an* *n*

**grammar school** *n* (14c) 1 a: a secondary school emphasizing Latin and Greek in preparation for college b: a British college preparatory school 2: a school intermediate between primary school and high school 3: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**gram-mat-i-cal** *adj* [grā-ma-tī-kəl] *adj* (1530) 1: of or relating to grammar 2: conforming to the rules of grammar (a ~ sentence) — *gram-mat-i-cal-i-ty* *n*, -ma-tō-ka-lē-tē *n* — *gram-mat-i-cal-ly* *adv* — *gram-mat-i-cal-ness* *n* (1769): the part of meaning that varies from one inflectional form to another (as from *plays* to *played* to *playing*) — compare LEXICAL MEANING

**gramme** chiefly Brit var of *GRAM*  
**gram molecular weight** *n* (ca. 1902): the mass of one mole of a compound equal in grams to the molecular weight — called also *gram-molecule*

**Gram-my** *n* [grā-mē] *service mark* — used for the annual presentation of a statuette for notable achievement in the recording industry  
**gram-neg-a-tive** *adj* [grām-nē-gə-tīv] *adj* (1907): not holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

**gram-o-phone** *n* [grā-mō-fōn] *n* [fr. *Gramophone*, a trademark] (1887): PHONOGRAPH

**gramps** *n* [grām(p)s] or *gramp* *n*, pl *gramps* [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1900): GRANDFATHER 1a

**gram-pos-i-tive** *adj* [grām-pō-zī-tīv, -pāz-tīv] *adj* (1907): holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

**gram-pus** *n* [grām-pəs] *n* [alter. of ME *graspey*, *grapay*, fr. AF *graspel*, fr. *gras* fat (fr. L *crassus*) + *peis* fish, fr. L *piscis* — more at *CRASS*, *FISH*] (ca. 1529) 1: a dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) of temperate and tropical seas; also: any of various small cetaceans 2: the giant whip scorpion (*Mastigoproctus giganteus*) of the southern U.S.

**Gram's stain** *n* [grāmz-] or *Gram stain* *n* [Hans C. J. Gram 1938 Dan. physician] (1903) 1: a method for the differential staining of bacteria by treatment with a watery solution of iodine and the iodide of potassium after staining with a triphenylmethane dye (as crystal violet) — called also *Gram's method* 2: the chemicals used in Gram's stain

**gram-vari-able** *adj* [grām-ver-ē-ə-bəl] *adj* (1956): staining irregularly or inconsistently by Gram's stain

**gran** *n* (1863): GRANDMOTHER 1

**grana** pl of *GRANUM*  
**gran-a-dil-la** *n* [grān-ə-dī-lā, -dē-(y)ə] *n* [Sp, dim. of *granada* pomegranate, fr. LL *granata* — more at *GRENADE*] (1613) 1: any of various usu. egg-shaped to football-shaped passion fruits (esp. of *Passiflora quadrangularis* and *P. edulis*) that have juicy aromatic pulp: a passion-flower that produces granadillas

**grana-ry** *n* [grā-nə-rē, -grā-] *n*, pl -ries [L *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain] (1570) 1 a: a storehouse for threshed grain b: a region producing grain in abundance 2: a chief source or storehouse

**grand** *adj* [AF *grānt*, *grand*, large, great, grand, fr. L *grandis*] (1548) 1 a: having more importance than others: FOREMOST b: having higher rank than others bearing the same general designation (the ~ champion) 2 a: INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE (the ~ total ample) 3: CHIEF, PRINCIPAL 4: large and striking in size, scope, ex-ent, or conception (~ design) 5 a: LAVISH, SUMPTUOUS (a ~ celebration) b: marked by a regal form and dignity c: fine or imposing in appearance or impression d: LOFTY, SUBLIME (writing in the ~ style) 6 a: pretending to social superiority: SUPERBIOUS b: in-tended to impress (a person of ~ gestures) 7: very good: WONDER-FUL (a ~ time) — *grand-ly* *adv* [grān(d)-lē] *adv* — *grand-ness* *n*

**syn** GRAND, MAGNIFICENT, IMPOSING, STATELY, MAJESTIC, GRANDI-OSB mean large and impressive. GRAND adds to greatness of size the implications of handsomeness and dignity (a *grand staircase*). MAG-NIFICENT implies an impressive largeness proportionate to scale with-OUT sacrifice of dignity or good taste (*magnificent* paintings). IMPOS-ING implies great size and dignity but esp. stresses impressiveness (an imposing edifice). STATELY may suggest poised dignity, erectness (an bearing, handsomeness of proportions, ceremonious deliberation of movement (the *stately* procession)). MAJESTIC combines the implica-tions of IMPOSING and STATELY and usu. adds a suggestion of solemn grandeur (a *majestic waterfall*). GRANDIOSB implies a size or scope is most commonly applied derogatorily to inflated pretension or ab-surd exaggeration (*grandiose* schemes).

**grand** *n* (1840) 1: GRAND PIANO 2 pl *grand slang*: a thousand dol-lars

about kitten, F table further ash ace mop, mar  
 laul out ch chin bet easy go hit ice job  
 sing go law boy thin the loot foot  
 yet vision, beige k, o, u, 7 see Guide to Pronunciation

**chaku** [Jp dial. (Okinawa)] (1970) : a weapon that consists of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain  
**nun-chature** \nun(t)-sə-čhūr, 'nūn(t)-, -chər, -tyūr, -tūr/ n [It *nunciatura*, fr. *nuncio*] (1652) 1 : a papal diplomatic mission headed by a nun  
**nuncio** 2 : the office or period of office of a nuncio  
**nun-clo** \nun(t)-sə-čl, 'nūn(t)-, -pl, -cl-əs/ [It, fr. L. *nuntius* messenger, message] (1528) : a papal legate of the highest rank permanently accredited to a civil government  
**nun-cle** \nəŋ-kəl/ n [by alter. (fr. misdivision of an uncle)] (ca. 1589) chiefly dial. : UNCLE  
**nun-cu-pa-tive** \nun-kyū-pā-tiv, 'nəŋ-, -nən-, -nən-kyū-pā- / adj [ML *nuncupatus*, fr. LL, so-called, fr. L. *nuncupare* to name, prob. ultim. fr. *nomen* name + *capere* to take — more at NAME, HEAVE] (1546) : not written : ORAL (a ~ will)  
**nun-ery** \nun-rē, 'nə-nə-, n, pl -ner-les/ (14c) : a convent of nuns  
**nuoc** \nu-ək-, 'nām/ n [Vietnamese *nuoc* *mām*, lit., salted fish sauce] (1919) : a sauce made of fish (as anchovies) fermented in brine  
**Nu-pe** \nu-ə-, 'pā/ n, pl Nu-pe or Nu-pes (1883) : a member of a people of west central Nigeria; also : the language of the Nupe people  
**nup-tial** \nəp-shəl, -chəl, -cha-wəl/ adj [L. *nuptialis*, fr. *nuptia*, nup., wedding, fr. *nupte* to marry; perh. akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, nymph] (15c) 1 : of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony 2 : characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season (~ flight)  
**nuptial** n (ca. 1555) : MARRIAGE, WEDDING — usu. used in pl.  
**nup-tial-ty** \nəp-shē-ə-lə-tē, -chē- / n, pl -ties/ (1899) : the marriage rate  
**Nur-stani** \nur-ə-'stā-nē, nyūr- / n [Nuristan, Afghanistan] (1951) 1 : a member of a group of peoples of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan 2 : the family of languages spoken by the Nuristanis that constitutes a distinct branch of Indo-Iranian  
**nurse** \nur-s/ [ME *nurice*, *norse*, *nurse*, fr. AF *nurice*, fr. LL *nutricia*, fr. L, fem. of *nutricius* nourishing — more at NUTRITIOUS] (13c) 1 a : a woman who suckles an infant not her own : WET NURSE b : a woman who takes care of a young child : DRY NURSE 2 : one that looks after, fosters, or advises 3 : a person who cares for the sick or infirm; *specif.* : a licensed health-care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health — compare LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, REGISTERED NURSE 4 a : a worker form of a social insect (as an ant or bee) that cares for the young b : a female mammal used to suckle the young of another  
**nurse** v (14c) : nurse-ing [ME *nurshen* to suckle, nourish, contr. of *nurshen*] vt (14c) 1 a : to nourish at the breast : Suckle b : to take nourishment from the breast of 2 : REAR, EDUCATE 3 a : to promote the development or progress of b : to manage with care or economy (*nursed* the business through hard times) (*nursed* a 1-0 lead) c : to take charge of and watch over 4 a : to care for and wait on (as a sick person) b : to attempt to cure by care and treatment 5 : to hold in one's memory or consideration (~ a grievance) 6 a : to use, handle, or operate carefully so as to conserve energy or avoid injury or pain (~ a sprained ankle) b : to use sparingly c : to consume slowly or over a long period (~ a cup of coffee) ~ vi 1 a : to feed an offspring from the breast b : to feed at the breast : Suck 2 : to act or serve as a nurse  
**nurse-er** \nur-s-er/ n (1657) : a girl or woman who is regularly employed to look after children  
**nurse-mid-wife** \nur-mīd-wīf/ n (1952) : a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care (as gynecological exams) of women — *nurse-mid-wife-ry* \nur-mīd-wīf-ē-ri-, -wī-/ n  
**nurse-prac-ti-tion-er** \prak-'ti-sh(ə)-nər/ n (1969) : a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician  
**nurs-ery** \nur-s-ri-, -nər-s- / n, pl -er-ies/ (14c) 1 obs : attentive care : FOSTERAGE 2 a : a child's bedroom b : a place where children are temporarily cared for in their parents' absence c : DAY NURSERY 3 a : something that fosters, develops, or promotes b : a place in which persons are trained or educated 4 : an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stocks for budding and grafting, or for sale 5 : a place where young animals grow or are cared for  
**nurs-ery-man** \nur-mən/ n (1672) : one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants (as trees and shrubs) esp. for sale  
**nursery rhyme** n (1816) : a short rhyme for children that often tells a story  
**nursery school** n (1835) : a school for children usu. under five years  
**nurse's aide** n (1943) : a worker who assists trained nurses in a hospital by performing unspecialized services (as giving baths)  
**nurse shark** n [alter. of *nurse*] (1851) : any of various sharks (as family *Ginglymostomatidae*); esp. : a shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) of warm waters  
**nursing** n (1860) 1 : the profession of a nurse (schools of ~) 2 : the duties of a nurse (proper ~ is difficult work)  
**nursing home** n (1896) : a privately operated establishment providing maintenance and personal or nursing care for persons (as the aged or the chronically ill) who are unable to care for themselves properly  
**nurs-ling** \nur-s-līŋ/ n (1557) 1 : one that is solicitously cared for 2 : a nursing child  
**nur-tur-ance** \nur-čə-rən(t)s/ n (ca. 1938) : affectionate care and attention — *nur-tur-ant* \nur-ən(t)- / adj  
**nur-ture** \nur-čər-/ n [ME *nurture*, *nurture*, fr. AF *nurture*, fr. LL *nurtura* act of nursing, fr. L. *nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to suckle, nourish — more at NOURISH] (14c) 1 : TRAINING, UPBRINGING 2 : something that nourishes : FOOD 3 : the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism  
**nurture** vt (14c) : nur-tur-ing \nur-č-riŋ, -nər-č-/ (15c) 1 : to supply with nourishment 2 : EDUCATE 3 : to further the development of : FOSTER — *nur-tur-er* \nur-č-ər-/ n  
**nut** \nut/ [ME *nute*, *note*, fr. OE *hnutu*; akin to OHG *nuz* nut and perh. to L. *nux* nut] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel (2) : the kernel of a nut b : a dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit with a woody pericarp 2 a : a hard problem or undertaking b : CORB, HEART 3 : a perforated

block usu. of metal that has an internal screw thread and is used on a bolt or screw for tightening or holding something 4 : the ridge in a stringed instrument (as a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 : a small lump (as of butter) 6 a : a foolish, eccentric, or crazy person b : ENTHUSIAST (a movie ~) 7 pl : NONSENSE — often used interjectionally 8 slang : a person's head 9 usu. vulgar : TESTIS 10 : the amount of money that must be earned in order to break even 11 : EN 1 — *nut-likē* \-līk/ adj  
**nut** vt *nut-ted*; *nut-ting* (1604) : to gather or seek nuts  
**nut-tate** \nut-tāt, 'nyū- / v *nut-tat-ed*; *nut-tat-ing* (1880) : to exhibit or undergo nutation

**nu-ta-tion** \nu-tā-shən, nyū- / n [L. *nutatio*, *nutatio*, fr. *nutare* to nod, rock — more at NUMEN] (1612) 1 archaic : the act of nodding the head 2 : oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (as the earth) : WOBBLE 3 : a spontaneous usu. spiral movement of a growing plant part — *nu-ta-tion-al* \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ adj  
**nut-brown** \nut-brəwn/ adj (14c) : of the color of a brown nut  
**nut-case** \-kās/ n (1559) : NUT 6a  
**nut-crack-er** \-krak-ər/ n (ca. 1548) : an implement for cracking nuts  
**nut-gall** \-gəl/ n (15c) : a gall that resembles a nut; esp. : such a gall produced on oaks

**nut grass** n (1775) : a perennial sedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) of wide distribution that has slender rootstocks bearing small edible tubers resembling nuts; also : a related sedge (*C. esculentus*)

**nut-hatch** \nut-hach/ n [ME *notehache*, fr. *note* nut + *hache*; akin to OE *tohaccian* to hack — more at HACK] (14c) : any of various small tree-climbing chiefly insectivorous birds (family Sittidae and esp. genus *Sitta*) that have a compact body, a narrow bill, a short tail, and sometimes a black cap



nuthatch

**nut-house** \nut-haus/ n (1900) slang : a mental hospital  
**nut-let** \nut-lət/ n (1856) 1 a : a small nut b : a small fruit similar to a nut 2 : the stone of a drupelet

**nut-meg** \nut-meg, -mæg/ n [ME *notemigge*, *notemigge*, ultim. fr. Old Occitan *noz muscada*, fr. *noz* nut (fr. L. *nuc-*, *nuc-*) + *muscada*, fem. of *muscat* musky — more at MUSCAT] (15c) 1 : an aromatic seed produced by an evergreen tree (*Myristica fragrans*) of the family Myristicaceae, the nutmeg family) native to the Moluccas; also : the ground seed used as a spice — compare MACIS 2 : a tree yielding nutmeg

**nut-pick** \nut-pīk/ n (1862) : a small sharp-pointed implement for extracting the kernels from nuts  
**nu-tra-ceu-ti-cal** also *nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal* \nu-trə-'sū-ti-kəl/ n [nutritive + 'pharmaceutical] (1990) : a foodstuff (as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value

**nu-tra** \nu-trə-, 'nyū- / n [AmerSp, fr. Sp, otter, modif. of L. *lutra*; prob. akin to OE *oter* otter] (1820) 1 : the durable usu. light brown fur of a nutria 2 : a large So. American semiaquatic rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) with webbed hind feet and a round nearly hairless tail that has been introduced into parts of Europe, Asia, and No. America

**nut-ri-ent** \nu-trē-ənt, 'nyū- / adj [L. *nutritus*, *nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1650) : furnishing nourishment  
**nutrient** n (ca. 1828) : a nutritive substance or ingredient  
**nut-ri-ment** \nu-trē-mənt, 'nyū- / n [ME, fr. L. *nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire*] (15c) : something that nourishes or promotes growth, provides energy, repairs body tissues, and maintains life

**nut-ri-tion** \nu-tri-shən, nyū- / n [ME *nutricion*, fr. LL *nutrition*, *nutritio*, fr. L. *nutrire*] (15c) 1 : the act or process of nourishing or being nourished; *specif.* : the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances 2 : NOURISHMENT 1 — *nu-tri-tion-al* \-trish-ənəl, -trish-ənəl/ adj — *nu-tri-tion-al-ly* adv  
**nu-tri-tion-ist** \-trish-ən-ist/ n (1926) : a specialist in the study of nutrition

**nu-tri-tious** \nu-tri-shəs, nyū- / adj [L. *nutricius*, fr. *nutric-*, *nutrix* nurse, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1665) : NOURISHING — *nu-tri-tious-ly* adv — *nu-tri-tious-ness* n

**nu-tri-tive** \nu-tri-tiv, 'nyū- / adj (14c) 1 : of or relating to nutrition 2 : NOURISHING — *nu-tri-tive-ly* adv

**nutritive ratio** n (1897) : the ratio of digestible protein to other nutrients in a foodstuff or ration

**nuts** \nuts/ adj (1785) 1 : ENTHUSIASTIC, KEEN (~ for animals and children — Rick Reilly) 2 : INSANE, CRAZY (said that it was a novel and all the people who said otherwise were ~ — Flannery O'Connor)  
**nuts and bolts** n (1967) 1 : the working parts or elements 2 : the practical workings of a machine or enterprise as opposed to theoretical considerations or speculative possibilities — *nuts-and-bolts* adj

**nut-sedge** \nut-sej/ n (ca. 1909) : NUT GRASS  
**nut-shell** \nut-shel/ n (13c) 1 : the hard external covering in which the kernel of a nut is enclosed 2 : something of small size, amount, or scope — In a nutshell : in a very brief statement

**nut-ty** \nut-tē/ adj *nut-ti-er*; -est (15c) 1 : having or producing nuts 2 : having a flavor like that of nuts 3 : ECCENTRIC, SILLY; also : mentally unbalanced — *nut-ti-ly* \-tē-lē/ adv — *nut-ti-ness* n

**Nuu-Chah-Nulth** also *Nuu Chah Nulth* \nu-čā-nūth/ n, pl *Nuu-Chah-Nulth* also *Nuu Chah Nulth* [Nootka *nučah-nul*, lit., all along the mountains] (1979) : NOOTKA

**nux vom-i-ca** \naks-'vā-mī-kā/ n, pl *nux vomica* [NL, lit., emetic nut] (14c) 1 : the poisonous disk-shaped seed of a tree (*Strychnos nuxvomica*) of the family Loganiaceae of southern Asia that contains several alkaloids and esp. strychnine and brucine; also : the tree yielding nux vomica 2 : a drug containing nux vomica

\ə/ about \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ ace \ə/ mop, mar \ə/ out \ə/ chin \ə/ bet \ə/ easy \ə/ go \ə/ hit \ə/ ice \ə/ job \ə/ sing \ə/ go \ə/ law \ə/ boy \ə/ chin \ə/ the \ə/ loot \ə/ foot \ə/ yet \ə/ vision, beige \ə/ , ac, ce, ut, see Guide to Pronunciation

**ve-da-lia** \vī-dā-lī-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name] (1889): an Australian ladybug (*Rodalia cardinalis*) introduced to many countries to control scale insects — called also **vedalia beetle**

**Ve-dan-ta** \vā-dān-tā, vā-, -dān- \ *n* [Skt *Vedānta*, lit., end of the Veda, fr. *Veda* + *anta* end; akin to OE *ende* end] (1788): an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing esp. in a qualified monism the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul — **Ve-dan-tism** \-dān-tī-zəm, -dān- \ *n* — **Ve-dan-tist** \-dān-tīst, -dān- \ *n*

**Ve-dan-tic** \vā-dān-tik, -dān- \ *adj* (1882): 1: of or relating to the Vedanta philosophy 2: **VEDIC**

**Ved-da** or **Ved-dah** \vā-dā\ *n* [Sinhalese *vedda* hunter] (1681): a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka

**Ved-doid** \vā-dōid\ *n* (1928): a member of a race of southern Asia traditionally classified by such physical features as wavy to curly hair, chocolate-brown skin color, and slender body build — **Veddoid** *adj*

**ve-dette** or **vi-dette** \vī-det\ *n* [F, fr. *le vedette*, alter. of *velette*, prob. fr. *Sp vela* watch, fr. *velar* to keep watch, fr. *L vigilare* to wake, watch, fr. *vigil* awake — more at **VIGIL**] (ca. 1611): a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets

**Ve-dic** \vā-dik\ *adj* (1848): of or relating to the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 1500 B.C. and 500 B.C.

**vee** \vī\ *n* (ca. 1883): 1: something shaped like the letter V 2: the letter v

**vee-jay** \vā-jā\ *n* [video jockey] (ca. 1981): an announcer of a program (as on television) that features music videos

**veena** var of **VINA**

**veep** \vīp\ *n* [fr. *v. p.* (abbr. for *vice president*)] (1949): **VICE PRESIDENT**

**veer** \vīr\ *v* [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin; akin to MD *veren* to slacken, MLG *veren*] (15c): to let out (as a rope)

**veer** *v* [ME *veren*, fr. MF *vire*, fr. OF, to throw with a twisting motion, fr. VL *vibrare*, alter. of *L vibrare* to wave, propel suddenly — more at **VIBRATE**] *v* (15c): 1: to change direction or course (the economy ~ed sharply downward) 2: of the wind: to shift in a clockwise direction — compare **BACK** 3: to wear ship ~ *vt*: to direct to a different course; *specif*: **WEAR** 7 *syn* see **SWERVE** — **veering-ly** \-lī-lē\ *adv*

**veer** *n* (ca. 1611): a change in course or direction (a ~ to the right)

**vee-ry** \vīr-ē\ *n*, *pl* **veeries** [prob. imit.] (1838): an American thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) common in the eastern U.S.

**veg** \vī\ *n*, *pl* **veg** (1918) chiefly Brit: **VEGETABLE**

**Ve-ga** \vā-gā, vā- \ *n* [NL, fr. Ar (*al-Nasr*) *al-Wāqī*, lit., the falling (vulture)] (ca. 1638): the brightest star in the constellation Lyra

**veg-an** \vā-gən\ *n*, *pl* **veg-an** or **-jan** \-jən\ *n* [by contr. fr. *vegetarian*] (1944): a strict vegetarian who consumes no animal food or dairy products; also: one who abstains from using animal products (as leather) — **vegan** *adj* — **veg-an-ism** \vā-gən-izəm, vā-g-, vā-jə- \ *n*

**veg-e-ta-ble** \vā-jə-tā-bəl, vā-jə- \ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr. *vegetare* to grow, fr. L, to animate, fr. *vegetus* lively, fr. *vegere* to enliven — more at **WAKE**] (15c): 1: of, relating to, constituting, or growing like plants 2: consisting of plants: **VEGETATIONAL** 2: made from, obtained from, or containing plants or plant products (~ soup) (~ fat) 3: resembling or suggesting a plant (as in inertness or passivity)

**vegetable** *n* (15c): 1: **PLANT** 1b 2: a usu. herbaceous plant (as the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part that is usu. eaten as part of a meal; also: such an edible part 3: a person whose mental and physical functioning is severely impaired and esp. one who requires supportive measures (as mechanical ventilation) to survive

**vegetable ivory** *n* (1842): 1: the hard white opaque endosperm of the ivory nut that takes a high polish and is used as a substitute for ivory 2: **IVORY NUT**

**vegetable marrow** *n* (ca. 1816) chiefly Brit: any of various smooth-skinned elongated summer squashes with creamy-white to deep green skins

**vegetable oil** *n* (1765): an oil of plant origin; esp: a fatty oil from seeds or fruits

**vegetable oyster** *n* (ca. 1818): **SALSIPLY**

**vegetable pear** *n* (1887): **CHAYOTE**

**vegetable wax** *n* (1815): a wax of plant origin secreted commonly in thin flakes by the walls of epidermal cells

**veg-e-ta-bly** \vā-jə-tā-blē, vā-jə- \ *adv* or *adj* (1651): in the manner of or like a vegetable

**veg-e-tal** \vā-jə-təl\ *adj* [ML *vegetare* to grow] (15c): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: **VEGETATIVE** 3: of or relating to the vegetal pole of an egg or to that part of an egg from which the endoderm normally develops (~ blastomeres)

**vegetal pole** *n* (1896): the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the animal pole and usu. marks the center of the protoplasm containing more yolk — see **BLASTULA** illustration

**veg-e-tar-i-an** \vā-jə-tar-ē-on\ *n* [Pretable + *-arian*] (1839): 1: one who believes in or practices vegetarianism 2: **HERBIVORE**

**vegetarian** *adj* (1849): 1: of or relating to vegetarians 2: consisting wholly of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, and sometimes eggs or dairy products (a ~ diet)

**veg-e-tar-i-an-ism** \vā-jə-tar-ē-on-izəm\ *n* (ca. 1851): the theory or practice of living on a vegetarian diet

**veg-e-tate** \vā-jə-tāt\ *v* -tāt-ed; -tāt-ing [ML *vegetatus*, pp. of *vegetare* to grow] *v* (1605): 1: to grow in the manner of a plant; also: to grow exuberantly or with proliferation of fleshy or warty outgrowths 2: to produce vegetation 3: to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind ~ *vt*: to establish vegetation in or on

**veg-e-ta-tion** \vā-jə-tā-shən\ *n* (1564): 1: the act or process of vegetating 2: inert existence 3: plant life or total plant cover (as of an area) 4: an abnormal growth upon a body part (fibrin ~s on the mitral valve) — **veg-e-ta-tion-al** \-chənəl, -chə-nəl\ *adj*

**veg-e-ta-tive** \vā-jə-tā-tiv\ *adj* (14c): 1: (1) growing or having the power of growing (2) of, relating to, or engaged in nutritive and growth functions, as contrasted with reproductive functions (a ~ nucleus) 2: promoting plant growth (the ~ properties of soil) 3: of, relating to, or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods 2: relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation 3: of or

relating to the division of nature comprising the plant kingdom 4: **AUTONOMIC** 1 b: characterized by, resulting from, or being a state of severe mental impairment in which only involuntary bodily functions are sustained 5: **VEGETABLE** 3 — **veg-e-ta-tive-ly** *adv* — **veg-e-ta-tive-ness** *n*

**ve-ge-te** \vā-jēt\ *adj* [L *vegetus* — more at **VEGETABLE**] (1639) *archaic*: **LIVELY, HEALTHY**

**veg-gle** also **veg-le** \vā-jē\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1955): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: *slang*: **VEGETARIAN**

**veggie burger** *n* (1972): a patty chiefly of vegetable-derived protein used as a meat substitute; also: a sandwich containing such a patty

**veg out** \vā-jə\ *v* **vegged out**; **veg-ging out** [short for *vegetate*] (1980): to spend time idly or passively

**ve-he-mence** \vā-jə-mən(t)s\ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being vehement: **INTENSITY**

**ve-he-ment** \vā-jə-mənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vehement*, *vehemens*, *vemens*] (15c): marked by forceful energy: **POWERFUL** (a ~ wind); as a: intensely emotional: **IMPASSIONED**, **FERVID** (~ patriotism) b (1): deeply felt (a ~ suspicion) (2): forcibly expressed (~ denunciations) c: bitterly antagonistic (a ~ debate) — **ve-he-ment-ly** *adv*

**ve-hi-cle** \vā-jə-kəl\ also \vā-jī-kəl\ *n* [F *véhicule*, fr. L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr. *vehere* to carry — more at **WAY**] (1612): 1: an inert medium (as a syrup) in which a medicinally active agent is administered 2: any of various media acting usu. as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients or pigments 3: an agent of transmission: **CARRIER** 4: a medium through which something is expressed, achieved, or displayed (an investment ~); esp: a work created esp. to display the talents of a particular performer 5: a means of carrying or transporting something (planes, trains, and other ~s); as a: **MOTOR VEHICLE** b: a piece of mechanized equipment

**ve-hi-cu-lar** \vā-jī-kyo-lər\ *adj* (1616): 1: of, relating to, or designed for vehicles and esp. motor vehicles 2: transported by vehicle c: caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle (~ homicide) 2: serving as a vehicle

**V-8** \vā-8\ *n* (1930): an internal combustion engine having two banks of four cylinders each with the banks at an angle to each other; also: an automobile having such an engine

**veil** \vāil\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *veil*, *veille*, fr. L *vela*, pl. of *velum* sail, awning, curtain] (13c): 1: a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often esp. in Eastern countries for the face; *specif*: the outer covering of a nun's headdress 2: a length of veiling or netting worn over the head or face or attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headdress (a bridal ~) 3: any of various liturgical cloths; esp: a cloth used to cover the chalice 2: the life of a nun — often used in the phrase *take the veil* 3: a concealing curtain or cover of cloth 4: something that resembles a veil (a ~ of stars); esp: something that hides or obscures like a veil (lift the ~ of secrecy) 5: a covering body part or membrane: as a: **VELUM** b: **CAUL**

**veil** *v* (14c): to cover, provide, obscure, or conceal with or as if with a veil ~ *vi*: to put on or wear a veil

**veiled** \vāild\ *adj* (14c): 1: having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover (a ~ hat) 2: characterized by a softening tonal distortion 2: obscured as if by a veil: **DISOUSED** (~ threats)

**veiling** \vāil-ŋ\ *n* (13c): 1: any of various light sheer fabrics 2: **VEIL**

**vein** \vāin\ *n* [ME *veine*, fr. AF, fr. L *vena*] (14c): 1: a narrow water channel in rock or earth or in ice 2: **LODE** 2 (2): a bed of useful mineral matter 3: **LODE** 3 2: **BLOOD VESSEL**; esp: any of the tubular branching vessels that carry blood from the capillaries toward the heart 3: any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf 4: any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect 5: something suggesting veins (as in reticulation); *specif*: a wavy variegation (as in marble) 6: a distinctive mode of expression: **STYLE** (stories in a romantic ~) 7: a distinctive element or quality: **STRAIN** (introduced a welcome ~ of humor) 8: a line of thought or action (renewed discussion along the same ~) 9: a special aptitude (inherited an artistic ~) 10: a usu. transitory and casually attained mood 11: top form (thou troublest me; I am not in the ~ — Shak.) — **vein-er** \vāin-ər\ *adj*

**vein** *v* (1502): to pattern with or as if with veins

**veined** \vāind\ *adj* (ca. 1529): patterned with or as if with veins: having venation: **STREAKED** (a ~ leaf) (~ marble) (~ cheese)

**vein-er** \vāin-ər\ *n* (1895): a small V gouge used in wood carving

**vein-ing** \vāin-ŋ\ *n* (1826): a pattern of veins: **VENATION**

**vein-let** \vāin-lət\ *n* (1831): a small vein

**veiny** \vāin-ē\ *adj* (1611): full of veins: noticeably veined (~ hands)

**vel** *abbr* velocity

**ve-la-men** \vā-lā-mən\ *n*, *pl* **ve-lam-i-na** \-lā-mā-nə\ [NL, fr. L, covering, fr. *velare* to cover, fr. *velum* curtain] (1882): the thick corky epidermis of aerial roots of an epiphytic orchid that absorbs water from the atmosphere

**ve-lar** \vā-lər\ *adj* [NL *velaris*, fr. *velum*] (1876): 1: formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (the ~ *v* of *kill* cool) 2: of, forming, or relating to a velum and esp. the soft palate — **velar** *n*

**ve-lar-i-um** \vā-lər-ē-əm\ *n*, *pl* **la** \-ē-ə\ [L, fr. *velum* curtain] (1834): an awning over an ancient Roman theater or amphitheater

**ve-lar-i-za-tion** \vā-lər-ē-zā-shən\ *n* (1915): 1: the quality or state of being velarized 2: an act or instance of velarizing

**ve-lar-ize** \vā-lər-ē-zē\ *v* -zēd; -zē-ing (1915): to modify (as the *v* of *pull* pool) by a simultaneous velar articulation

**Vel-cro** \vā-l-krō\ *trademark* — used for a closure consisting of a piece of fabric of small hooks that sticks to a corresponding fabric of small loops

**veld** or **veldt** \vāit, vāit\ *n* [Afrik *veld*, fr. D, field; akin to OE *feld* field] (1835): a grassland esp. of southern Africa usu. with scattered shrubs or trees

**vel-li-ger** \vā-lē-jər, vā- \ *n* [NL, fr. *velum* + *-ger* bearing, fr. *gerere* to bear] (1877): a larval mollusk in the stage when it has developed the velum

**vel-le-i-ty** \vā-lē-ē-tē, vā- \ *n*, *pl* **ties** [NL *velletas*, fr. L *velle* to wish, will — more at **WILL**] (1618): 1: the lowest degree of volition 2: a slight wish or tendency: **INCLINATION**

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